



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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June 29, 2023

Rebecca Cameron Valcq
Chairperson
Public Service Commission
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Plan Input - Department of Corrections

Commissioner Valcq:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated May 1, 2023, requesting input for the State of Wisconsin's Broadband and Digital Equity Plan. At this time, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) does not require any additional broadband capacity at its facilities. However, it should be noted that DOC supervises clientele living in the community in every corner of our state. Individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision mirror the entire population of the State of Wisconsin, for whom we acknowledge an array of expanded broadband services are needed.

While additional broadband capacity is not required, DOC does need to expand wireless access and expand fiber optic infrastructure at DOC facilities. Expanding wireless access at the institutions is essential in order to allow staff and persons in our care (PIOCs) use of new wireless technologies. Upgrading fiber infrastructure is important because it interconnects all campus buildings to internet providers. The current infrastructure at these locations is aging, deteriorating, and offers insufficient connections for our many campus-wide systems, which can adversely affect the quality of broadband communications.

Thank you for involving us in your efforts to ensure digital equity and reliable high-speed internet accessible for all Wisconsinites. Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to our Chief Information Officer, Tommy Balistreri at thomas.balistreri@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin A. Carr".

Kevin A. Carr, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Corrections